

# Supervisor Romaine Urges Residents to Keep Pets Indoors During Extreme Cold Weather Conditions

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**Farmingville, NY** - Supervisor Ed Romaine is asking residents to be extra vigilant during extreme cold weather and keep pets safe and warm indoors. Cold temperatures can be dangerous and even fatal, so pet owners should take a common sense approach to prevent such things as frostbite and hypothermia. In addition, pets can suffer skin irritation and burns from harmful toxins such as salt and ice-melts. There is also a danger of pets ingesting automotive anti-freeze which can cause renal failure and death.

"As pet owners, we are the ones responsible for their health and safety," said Supervisor Romaine. "Please take extra care of them during cold weather and make sure that you follow the recommendations by the SPCA."

Some "Cold Weather Tips" provided by the Suffolk County SPCA include:

- Never leave pets in a car for any length of time
- Walk dogs only on a leash because roads can be dangerous in ice and snow conditions
- Keep pets away from fireplaces
- Never use a space heater which can be knocked over and cause a fire
- Keep tags on your pet. More dogs get lost in winter snow conditions.

The SPCA also reminds dog owners that you cannot tether or chain a dog outside for more than two hours in any 12 hour period and that no dog can be tethered for any length of time if the chain or tether:

- Is attached to a choke or pinch collar
- Has a collar that is embedded or may become embedded
- Has links that are more than 1/4 inch thick
- Has weights attached
- Is less than 10 feet in length
- Weighs more than 25 pounds or 1/4 of the dog's weight
- Can become entangled

For a complete list of "Cold Weather Tips," and more information about caring for pets during the winter months, visit [suffolkspca.org](http://suffolkspca.org). If residents have questions or would like to report animal abuse, they should call 631-382-7722.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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